

Message Text

SECRET

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47

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 L-03 H-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2095

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T SANAA 778

E. O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: CASC (SALTZMAN, STEVEN J. AND JUNGMAN, JUDITH

LUE

SUBJ: IMPRISONMENT OF TWO AMERICAN IN SANAA

REF: SANAA 757

1. DIRECTLY WITH DEP PRIMIN/ FONMIN NU' MAN AND INDIRECTLY WITH DEPUTY CIC AL- HAMDI I HAVE INQUIRED RE DETENTION OF TWO AMCITS. FROM REACTIONS, I AM CONVINCED NEITHER WAS AWARE

OF PRESENCE OR DETENTION OF SALTZMAN OR JUNGMAN. I HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT EMBASSY NOT SEEKING PREJUDGE RESULTS OF YAR INVESTIGATION INTO ACTIVITIES OF THESE TWO. HOWEVER, WE DO INSIST ON BEING INFORMED OFFICIALLY OF THEIR DETENTION, AND ON OUR RIGHT TO CONSULAR ACCESS. BOTH ACKNOWLEDGED PROPRIETY OF OUR POSITION. BOTH PROMISED INVESTIGATE AND REPORT BACK.

2. WE NOW LEARN THAT UPON INITIAL ARRIVAL IN HODEIDA SALTZMAN AND JUNGMAN MADE INQUIRIES ABOUT HOW TO GET TO KAMARAN ISLAND. IT WAS THIS WHICH AROUSED YEMENI SUSPICIONS AND PRECIPITATED SEARCH OF SALTZMAN'S BAGGAGE. SEARCH TURNED UP LETTER IN HEBREW EVIDENTLY DISCUSSING SALTZMAN'S PLANS EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL AS WELL AS ISRAELI STUDENT IDENTITY CARD.

3. THROUGH INTERMEDIARY, HAMDI HAS LET ME KNOW THAT
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THIS IS LIKELY BE A DIFFICULT CASE. PERSONS OF JEWISH FAITH, HE POINTS OUT, ARE NOT ALLOWED ENTRY INTO YEMEN. YARG POLITICALLY VERY SENSITIVE ON QUESTIONS OF ALLEGED ISRAELI SABOTAGE IN VIEW (A) LAST YEAR' S SEIZURE OF A REAL ISRAELI SPY IN HODEIDA, (B) INFORMATION ON AND ARRESTS OF EITHIOPIAN CITIZENS HERE BELIEVED TO BE WORKING FOR ISRAEL (SANAA 308 , PARAS 5 AND 6), (C) YAR' S CONTINUING EMBARRASSMENT IN ARAB LEAGUE CIRCLES REGARDING TIME MAGAZINE STORY ON ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF ZUQAR ISLAND. HAMDI STATES THAT EVEN IF YARG SHOULD CONCLUDE AFTER THOROUGH INVESTIGATION THAT SALTZMAN AND JUNGMAN ARE SIMPLY " VERY STUPID YOUNG AMERICANS" , NO DECISION ON RELEASE COULD BE TAKEN WITHOUT PERSONAL APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT AL- IRYANI.

4. INFORMALLY, I HAVE SUGGESTED TO BOTH NU' MAN AND HAMDI THAT YARG CONCLUDE ITS INVESTIGATION AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE. IF IT BECOMES SATISFIED SALTZMAN AND JUNGMAN ARE MISGUIDED BUT INNOCENT, IT WOULD BE WELL GET THEM ON FIRST PLANE OUT OF YEMEN BEFORE THIS AFFAIR COMES TO PUBLIC ATTENTION AND YARG FREEDOM OF ACTION BECOMES CONSTRAINED.

5. WHEN I PUT THIS THOUGHT TO FONMIN HE SAID YARG MIGHT, IN SUCH EVENT, ASK USG LIMIT SALTZMAN/ JUNGMAN PASSPORTS VALID FOR RETURN ONLY TO US, TO HELP THOSE IN YARG MAKING THE DECISION DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST INTERNAL AND PERHAPS OTHER ARAB ACCUSATIONS THAT POTENTIAL SPIES HAD BEEN IN YARG CUSTODY AND THEN ALLOWED RETURN TO ISRAEL TO REPORT.
CRAWFORD

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